

Park and Recreation Commission

Meeting Minutes

Date: May 13, 2014, 6:00 P.M.

Place: Room 111, Town Hall, 333 Washington Street, Brookline MA

Commissioners Attending: John Bain, Nancy O' Connor, Clara Batchelor, Antonia Bellalta, Jim Carroll, Jean Stameris

Commissioners Absent: Dan Lyons

Staff: Erin Gallentine, Parks and Open Space Director, Lisa Paradis, Recreation Director, Jessica Zarni, Parks Administrative Assistant

TOPIC	KEY POINTS/DISCUSSION	
Chairman's Welcome Approval of Minutes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> J. Bain opened the meeting and asked for changes or comments on the Park and Recreation Minutes from April 8, 2014. 	N. O'Connor moved for approval of the minutes with minor changes. Seconded A. Bellalta. All in favor.
Public Comment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> N. O'Connor discussed the Billy Ward opening and how fabulous the park looks. She discussed how much fun the kids are having with the play equipment. E. Gallentine and N. O'Connor discussed the second bar at the top of the slide at the same level of the guard railing at the top. The kids just aren't seeing it, it is not required and it will be removed. N. O'Connor and E. Gallentine discussed the replacement of certain trees/plants at Billy Ward Playground. N. O'Connor said the kids are having a ball and the neighborhood is just so excited. E. Gallentine stated that the grand opening is Saturday, June 14th from 1-3 p.m. E. Gallentine discussed the music and activities for that day. 	
Recreation Update	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> L. Paradis discussed the revocable license agreement with Beaver Country Day School. This is the same agreement we have had with them for over 20 years; L. Paradis stated that it is a revocable license agreement that merely formalizes what has been in place for decades. . L. Paradis stated that The School has been a great partner to the Town and that there I reciprocal use of the school's facilities built into the agreement. . The agreement will be signed by the headmaster of the school after approval from the Commission, and then presented at a Selectmen's meeting in June. .L. Paradis will be looking for signatures once she recives the document from Town Counsel but was looking to get a vote of support today. L. Paradis wanted to inform the Commission that the School Department is having School Committee Subcommittee meeting regarding several of their policies, some of which have not been updated since the seventies. One of the policies in particular has to do with the use of school space for out of school time activities, which Recreation needs to function effectively. . L. Paradis will 	N. O'Connor moved to vote in favor of the revocable license agreement with the Fair Acres Country Day School. Seconded by A. Bellalta. All in favor.

	<p>be asking for support from the commission in some form, this support is needed to help the Recreation Department in securing a top position on usage. L. Paradis listed some of the other users. L. Paradis will be drafting a letter in the next couple of days</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • L. Paradis is in the process of interviewing for the Business Manager position, as well as a few other positions that need to be filled. • Recreation Leader Tim Davis was certified as a Recreation Professional by the National Certification Board and the National Recreation and Park Association. • The Concussion forum was a success, over 120 Park and Recreation professionals, school nurses, Athletic Directors, & Trainers, Public Health Professional and Physicians joined together at Gillette Stadium. It was a lot of work, the venue and the food was incredible. The flag football program was discussed. • The shell of the maintenance building has been finished; utilities are very close to being finished. L. Paradis discussed unused funds from that project. The next project will be to take down the old building and fit out the new building for occupancy. L. Paradis discussed the work and great partnership she has had with the DPW on this project. L. Paradis discussed the holding pattern that she is in, in terms of what kind of capital work can actually be done at the golf course right now. • L. Paradis discussed the plans with the practice facility. • L. Paradis stated that three greens were lost due to winter kill. L. Paradis discussed what exactly winter kill is. • Tee off at the library was a great success. • Summer camp registration is going strong and is on the brink of selling out each session. • The afterschool program is sold out. • For the second year in a row RAFT has now passed the 1,000 member mark. • Youth Lacrosse has 430 participants this year, there was only 230 participants there years ago that is a huge growth. • Recreation Therapy has finished up its 15 week intern program. • The Special Olympics Basketball program is in full effect right now. • L. Paradis wanted to let the Commission know that there is an updated website for golf. 	
Question of Approving Ice Cream Truck Permits Request	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hani-Hindi is the only permitted ice cream truck vendor in Brookline and he never plays music. He is looking for approval from the Park and Recreation Commission and requesting the following locations <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Harry Downes Field 2. Robinson Playground 	The Chair moves to to vote in favor of allowing Hindi-Hindi –All Star Ice-cream to serve ice cream in the following locations provided that it

	<p>3. Larz Anderson Park-Goddard Ave. Parking Lot 4. Skyline Park</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> This was approved last year as a pilot, E. Gallentine asked the Commission to consider a motion to vote in favor of allowing Hani-Hindi –All Star Ice-cream to serve ice cream in the following locations provided that it has no music or other nuisance noise and reserving the right to reduce or eliminate locations should the public have complaints. C. Batchelor asked if the public had any complaints and E. Gallentine responded with a no. E. Gallentine discussed the unauthorized ice cream vendors. 	<p>has no music or other nuisance noise and reserving the right to reduce or eliminate locations should the public have complaints. Seconded by C. Batchelor. All in favor.</p>
<p>Approval of Olmsted Tree Society Program for Tree Donation, Care and Maintenance In The Emerald Necklace Parks</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> E. Gallentine will be asking for a vote to approve the draft Olmsted Tree Society plan and restoration efforts. E. Gallentine wanted to show the Commission where the project is now. E. Gallentine stated that this is an initiative between the Emerald Necklace Conservatory, City of Boston, Town of Brookline and the Commonwealth of Brookline and showed the Commission the draft report. E. Gallentine and T. Brady wrote the request for proposal to put out a consultant team on this, they wanted to sure the end result worked well with the GIS. Bartlett Trees has completed an assessment of over seven thousand trees in the Emerald Necklace, and an overall health assessment of the forest was done. All of the money to complete this assessment that took over a year was paid out by the Olmsted Tree Society. E. Gallentine discussed the type of work and quality of that work that was done on the soil and with the trees. They took an incredible amount of documentation that is out there on the Emerald Necklace, research was done on the original design and existing conditions and E. Gallentine is very confident in the historic integrity of the analysis they provided. Of the seven thousand trees in inventory 36% was in good condition, 49% was fair, 14 %was poor and 2% were dead. E. Gallentine showed data sheets of when the stem by stem analyses of the trees were done. The management recommendations were discussed. E. Gallentine thought it was important for the Commission to see how far they have come with this tool, it really is the first of its kind. E. Gallentine discussed the tree recognition/ donor recognition types of plaques. The intent for these donations is to care for the overall collections of the trees. E. Gallentine stated that we can see how the program works and if it goes well this program can be rolled out into other parks. E. Gallentine discussed holding a couple of public meetings going through the whole plan and the finding. The Commission applauds the efforts to access, characterize and document the condition of the full 	<p>N. O'Connor moved to vote in favor of the goals as outlined in the draft Emerald Necklace Tree Inventory, Conditions Assessment and Management Plan. Vote to approve program in concept as it is currently envisioned, plaques as designed and recommended by the Director of Parks and Open Space and Restoration and maintenance efforts as outlined in the plan. Seconded by J. Stameris. All in favor.</p>

	<p>collection of trees in the Emerald Necklace with a consistent methodology and maintenance recommendations that can be planned for, managed and completed professionally, efficiently and through a public private partnership.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • E. Gallentine and N. O'Connor discussed the intent for money to go to Olmsted Tree Society, and for the Town to work with the conservancy and establish that years' worth plan, and they then hire and manage a company that the Town approves and the Town oversees the work. 	
Review Of Larz Anderson Auto Museum Permit Requests	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • E. Gallentine stated that the Larz Anderson Auto Museum submitted their event Management Plan 2014. There is an event every weekend from April 12th-October 26th. • Tutto Italiano has its own event plan, and has to submit it to the Brookline Police for their review. • E. Gallentine would like to go ahead and approve the plans and requests as they have outlined in their event management Plan, and the Town will work to help design a plan for Tutto Italiano. N. O'Connor, E. Gallentine and J. Bain discussed issues in the past with Tutto Italiano. 	The chair moves to support the Auto Museums request for event permits as outlined provided that the Police Department review and approve plans for Tutto Italiano. Seconded by N. O'Connor. All in favor.
Approve Letter of Support For Brookline Reservoir Application As A National Landmark	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • E. Gallentine presented a letter of support that she has written for the Brookline Reservoir Gatehouse. The Brookline Reservoir Gate House has been nominated to be listed as a National Landmark and the park is in the National Register of Historic Places. • E. Gallentine described what makes up both the National Register of Historic places and the National Historic Landmark. • NHL's are designated by the United States Secretary of the Interior because they are: sites where events of national historical significances occurred, places where prominent persons lived or worked icons of ideals that shaped the nation and for having outstanding examples of design or construction, places characterizing a way of life; or archeological sites able to yield information. The Gate House qualifies because of the engineering. • An application has been submitted by the Preservation Commission. Letters of support have been provided or agreed to by the Board of Selectman, Preservation Commission, Friends of the Brookline Reservoir. State Legislators are eager to write letters of support. • A draft letter is provided for the Commission's consideration. • Review for capital improvements will continue to include the Preservation Commission, Mass Historic Commission, but now include review from staff with the National Park Service as well. • Preservation Staff are willing to manage that process when necessary. • E. Gallentine considers this a real honor. 	C. Batchelor moves to vote in favor of the application to designate the Brookline Reservoir Gatehouse as a National Historic Landmark and write a letter of support for the application. Seconded by J. Carroll

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • N. O'Connor and E. Gallentine discussed limitations on projects that this would inhibit. 	
Park and Open Space Update	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The first Brookline Ave. Design Review Meeting took place on April 29th. • Four people provided a letter of interest to serve on the DRC: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Dawn Oates-Resident-Goal to improve inclusion in playground design. 2. Erica Key-Resident of Riverway Island Neighborhood-Works with young children. 3. Pat Vonegutt- Resident lives on Kent Street-Early Childhood Program Coordination in Brookline Public Schools, Supervise Inclusive Play at the Lynch Center 4. Wendy McMillan-Resident at 55 Village Way-Worked at Lynch Center as a Paraprofessional. • E. Gallentine needs a vote of three to be appointed. • C. Batchelor discussed the conversation that took place at the Design Review Meeting regarding Children's Hospital. • E. Gallentine discussed the relationship that Dawn Oates sees between Brookline Ave. Playground and Children's hospital, which E. Gallentine agrees with. The relationship is more handicap accessible than standard play being close to the hospital district. N. O'Connor expressed her concerns with having Children's Hospital being part of the conversation. N. O'Connor and E. Gallentine discussed the whole new level this park can be brought to with accessibility without compromising the play structure value. E. Gallentine stated that this cannot be done in every park, but if we are going to do it somewhere this is the place, it is level and has a close proximity to the Lynch Center, and that program has a student population that would benefit greatly from an Inclusive Playground. L. Paradis stated that the inclusion based playgrounds are very fun. They can be a little more expensive to build. L. Paradis stated that the feedback he has received from the community is positive and it does not take away any excitement. It is not exclusionary for abled bodied kids. • E. Gallentine stated that whoever is not chosen she would still encourage them to attend. • E. Gallentine stated that Eliot Playground/Warren field construction, phase 1 will begin May 27th and Phase 2 will begin on July 15th. E. Gallentine listed the colors. L. Paradis stated that baseball camp will still be at Eliot. C. Batchelor and E. Gallentine discussed the back stop. • Fisher Hill Reservoir Park is moving along with Argus. E. Gallentine discussed the grants. • E. Gallentine gave a Fisher Hill Gatehouse Preservation 	<p>The Park and Recreation Commission voted unanimously on selecting Dawn Oates, Erica Key and Wendy McMillan to serve as members on the Brookline Ave. Design Review Committee.</p>

	<p>Update. There was a staff and stakeholders meeting and submittal of 90% drawings. E. Gallentine discussed the bids.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Olmsted Birthday Celebration was rained out. • E. Gallentine discussed the Emerald Necklace Bike/Ped Crossings grant and work orders. • E. Gallentine has a proposal from KMDG to start a design review for roadway and overall circulation. E. Gallentine would like to reconvene the Design review Committee for Larz. C. Bathchelor asked if this went out competitively and E. Gallentine responded with a no and explained why. E. Gallentine stated that she feels that we should bring in KMDG, think about carnation, rebuild the roadways and think about if we want modern structures at Larz, how would we do that and how would we do it well. • E. Gallentine stated that next month that there will be a new proposal for the Cypress Field renaming. • E. Gallentine discussed the Amory Tennis Courts and the nuisance of the clay. E. Gallentine will present the options and costs for the clay nuisance at the next meeting. E. Gallentine will be inviting the Amory Tennis Court abutters to the meeting, and will look at what are the pros cons, ongoing costs, and capital costs for changing the surfacing of the Amory courts. E. Gallentine asked Stantec to put together a matrix of the costs. • E. Gallentine discussed the Park Rules and Regulation Signage Subcommittee working group meetings. • E. Gallentine discussed the Dukakis event that will take place in the Riverway Park in the fall. • Brookline Bikes Beacon and the Eris Doornewerd recognition are both taking place on Sunday May 18th. • Billy Ward Playground grand opening event is taking place on Saturday June 14th from 1-3 pm. • Hickey Triangle is being redesigned, the Economic Development Advisor Board is managing this and the fund is going through them. There will be a public meeting on this in June • There is work being done at Heath School. • Lawrence School/Artificial Turf was discussed. • The Driscoll major expansion project was discussed. • There is a new sculpture being looked at for the Baker School Playground. • E. Gallentine is looking to do something inexpensive but fun with the Elder Seating Area by Coolidge Corner. • The Asian Longhorn Beetle quarantine has been lifted. 	
Other Business	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Brookline Ave. Youth Baseball is very interested in fundraising money for synthetic turf and making that their home field. E. Gallentine discussed how this would affect the Green Dog Program. • E. Gallentine stated that the next Meeting will have an 	

	<p>Amory and Cypress discussion.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • E. Gallentine discussed the next steps for the Park and Recreation Dog Park Subcommittee. • L. Paradis passed along a letter to the Commission that she had received from Michael Hennessey. • L. Paradis discussed maybe having another morning meeting and doing a walk through at the golf course. 	
Adjourn	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • J, Bain moved to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by N. O'Connor. All in favor. 	

Next Meeting: June 10, 2014 Location: Town Hall Rm. 111

A true record

Attest Jessica Zarni

Date: 5/1/2014